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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Luigi Pace et al :
Application No. 09/876,359 : DECISION GRANTING PETITION
Filed: June 7, 2001 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b)
Attorney Docket No. CM2381 :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed March 31, 2006, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 in a timely manner to the final Office action mailed September 16, 2004, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. No extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on December 17, 2004. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on March 29, 2005.

The rule at 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3) requires a statement that "the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional." Since the statement appearing in the petition varies from the language of the rule, the statement is being construed as the statement required by 37 CFR 1.137(b)(3). Petitioner must notify the Office if this is **not** a correct interpretation of the statement appearing in the petition.

The petition satisfies the conditions for revival pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) in that (1) the reply (request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, \$790 filing fee, and submission as required by 37 CFR 1.114), (2) the \$1,500 petition fee, and (3) an adequate statement of unintentional delay have

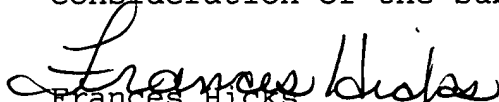
been received. Accordingly, the reply to the final Office action of September 16, 2004 is accepted as having been unintentionally delayed.

It is not apparent whether the person signing the statement of unintentional delay was in a position to have firsthand or direct knowledge of the facts and circumstances of the delay at issue. Nevertheless, such statement is being treated as having been made as the result of a reasonable inquiry into the facts and circumstances of such delay. See 37 CFR 10.18(b) and Changes to Patent Practice and Procedure; Final Rule Notice, 62 Fed. Reg. 53131, 53178 (October 10, 1997), 1203 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 63, 103 (October 21, 1997). In the event that such an inquiry has not been made, petitioner must make such an inquiry. If such inquiry results in the discovery that the delay was intentional, petitioner must notify the Office.

There is no indication that the person signing the petition was ever given a power of attorney to prosecute the above-identified application. If the person signing the petition desires to receive future correspondence regarding this application, the appropriate power of attorney documents must be submitted. While a courtesy copy of this decision is being mailed to the person signing the petition, all future correspondence will be directed to the address currently of record until such time as appropriate instructions are received to the contrary.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3218.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center AU 1751 for processing the request for continued examination and for consideration of the submission (amendment).


Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

cc:

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